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For Immediate Release  
June 18, 2013

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## **Navajo President Shelly Calls for More Defined Fundamental Law**

**TWIN ARROWS, Ariz. –** Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly called for Diné Fundamental Law to be better defined to better protect Navajo children.

The Navajo Nation in 2002 adopted Diné Fundamental Law to recognize unwritten traditional Navajo laws and values in written statutes.

"Only the medicine men know what fundamental law is. We need it written out because we have repeat offenders being let off because of

fundamental law," President Shelly said during opening remarks at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Navajo Division of Social Services conference on Tuesday.

President Shelly added that Fundamental Law needs to be more specific and urged the conference attendees to start dialogue to find solutions that would help social workers keep offenders accountable for their actions.

"We need stronger laws," President Shelly added.



President Shelly also thanked the Division of Social Services for their commitment to helping Navajo families.

“I know each of you have had hardships because of the situations you are asked to handle. I want each of you to know that I am thankful for your service to our Nation but most importantly, to our children,” President Shelly said.

The division has been making internal policy changes throughout the past year in efforts to serve Navajo people with more efficiency. President Shelly supports the division’s strides to make changes.

“I strongly support the restructuring of the divisions and programs. We cannot longer operate as we have been for years. We have to become more and more efficient while we find creative ways to deliver services,” President Shelly said.

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